

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached two (2) sheets of drawings include changes to FIGS. 3-4 and 5-8. In FIGS. 3, 4, 7 and 8, reference numerals 25 and 26 have been added indicating the recesses and projections in claim 2. In amended FIGS. 5-8, the reference numerals 1-4 have been changed to 1', 2', 3' and 4', respectively. These sheets, which include FIGS. 1-8, replace the sheets including FIGS. 1-8 currently on file.

ATTACHMENT: Two (2) Replacement Sheets

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims are 1-7. In amended FIGS. 3, 4, 7 and 8, the reference numerals 25 and 26 have been added to indicate the recesses and projections recited in claim 2. In amended FIGS. 5-8, the reference numerals 1-4 have been changed to 1', 2', 3' and 4', respectively. The Specification has been amended to refer to these reference numerals and to provide headings as requested by the Examiner. Reconsideration is expressly requested.

The Examiner objected to the drawings for the reasons set forth on page 2 of the Office Action. In response, Applicants have amended the drawings to change the reference numerals 1-4 in FIGS. 5-8 to 1', 2', 3' and 4', respectively, and have amended FIGS. 3, 4, 7 and 8 to indicate the recesses and projections recited in claim 2 with the reference numerals 25 and 26. The Specification has also been amended to refer to these reference numerals. It is respectfully submitted that the foregoing amendments overcome the objections to the drawings, and Applicants respectfully request that the rejection to the drawings be withdrawn.

The Examiner objected to the disclosure as missing headings. In response, Applicants have amended the Specification to incorporate such headings which, it is respectfully submitted,

overcomes the objection of the Examiner on the basis of this informality.

Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Mazziotti*, U.S. Patent No. 5,222,914. Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Mazziotti*. In addition, claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Aucktor*, U.S. Patent No. 3,475,924.

Essentially, the Examiner's position was that *Mazziotti* and *Aucktor* each discloses the joint recited in the claims, except that *Mazziotti* does not show eight balls and that *Aucktor* shows the inner hub as an integral component instead of one made up of two separate elements, that these differences are within the skill of the art, and that it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to modify the joints of *Mazziotti* and *Aucktor* to achieve the invention recited in the claims.

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As set forth in claim 1, Applicants' invention provides a Rzeppa joint that has a drive side end and a power take-off side end, an inner hub, an outer hub, and a ring-shaped cage disposed between the inner hub and the outer hub. The inner hub includes first inner running grooves running from the drive side end in

the direction of the power take-off side end and second inner running grooves running from the power take-off side end in the direction of the drive side end. The inner hub also has at least two elements that are connected with one another, which lie essentially one behind the other on the inner hub axis, and of which a first element has the first inner running grooves of the inner hub and a second element has the second inner running grooves of the inner hub. In this way, Applicants' invention provides a Rzeppa joint which can be assembled more quickly and simply and also with greater economic efficiency.

Neither *Mazziotti* nor *Aucktor* discloses a Rzeppa joint having the structure recited in claim 1, or teaches the benefits that are achieved in a joint having first and second running grooves running in opposite directions where the inner hub includes at least two elements that are connected with one another, which lie essentially one behind the other on the inner hub axis, and of which a first element has the first inner running grooves and a second element has the second inner running grooves.

More specifically, *Mazziotti* simply discloses a joint including first elements having first inner grooves and further elements having second inner grooves; however, these two pair of elements do not lie one behind the other on the inner hub axis. Moreover, as can be taken from FIG. 2 from *Mazziotti*, these two

pairs of elements lie essentially in the same plane. The joint disclosed in *Mazziotti* cannot be assembled quickly and simply because, as is apparent from *Mazziotti*, it is more difficult and time consuming to disassemble a large number of elements 34 as shown in *Mazziotti*, instead of just inserting the two elements as recited in Applicants' claim 1.

Aucktor is no more relevant. As the Examiner recognizes, *Aucktor* shows a joint with the inner hub being designed as a single component instead of two separate elements as recited in Applicants' claim 1. Contrary to the Examiner's position, however, it is respectfully submitted that nothing in *Aucktor* would allow a person skilled in the art to modify the joint disclosed therein such that the inner hub includes two elements lying essentially one behind the other on the inner hub axis and having first and second inner grooves, respectively. Simply put, *Aucktor* fails to provide even a hint that the design of the inner hub should be modified to achieve the joint recited in Applicants' claim 1.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-7 are patentable over the cited references.

Applicants would also like to advise the Examiner that a parallel European patent has been granted with essentially an identical set of claims, as shown in the attached copy of

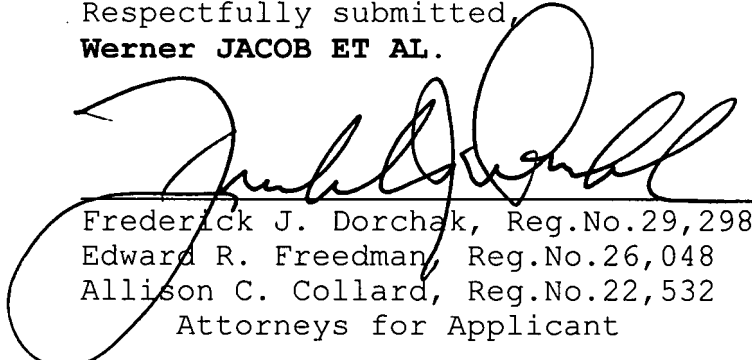
EP 1 552 175.

In summary, FIGS. 3-8 have been amended, together with the Specification. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the claims be allowed and this case be passed to issue.

Applicants also submit herewith a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,
Werner JACOB ET AL.

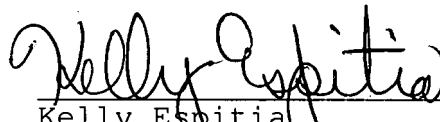
COLLARD & ROE, P.C.
1077 Northern Boulevard
Roslyn, New York 11576
516) 365-9802
FJD:gmg



Frederick J. Dorchak, Reg.No.29,298
Edward R. Freedman, Reg.No.26,048
Allison C. Collard, Reg.No.22,532
Attorneys for Applicant

Enclosure(s): Appendix: Two (2) sheets of Replacement Drawings
Copy of European Patent EP 1 552 175

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on June 18, 2007.



Kelly Espitia

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APPENDIX